

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT -  
Supplementary sheet

International File Reference  
PCT/DE 03/01897

Re item V

Reference is made to the following documents:

- 5 D1: US 2002/073204 A1 (DUTTA RABINDRANATH ET AL) 13  
June 2002 (2002-06-13)
- D2: US 2002/064147 A1 (GOLDBERG HAROLD JEFFREY ET AL)  
30 May 2002 (2002-05-30)
- D3: US 2001/034752 A1 (KREMIEN ORLY) 25 October 2001  
(2001-10-25)
- 10 D4: WO 00/77637 A (GATEWAY INC) 21 December 2000  
(2000-12-21)

- 1) The **subject matter of claim 1 is novel and  
inventive** (Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT).

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- 1.1) **D1 = US 2002/073204 A1 (DUTTA RABINDRANATH ET AL)  
13 June 2002 (2002-06-13)**, which is regarded as  
the closest prior art, discloses, in line with the  
following features of **independent claim 1**:

- 20 • a communication network with communication  
components which have client and server  
functionalities,
- and search functions, associated with the client  
functionalities, for ascertaining the current  
25 addresses of those communication components which  
allow the use of the server functionalities.

- 1.2) The subject matter of claim 1 thus differs from  
that of the known document D1 by virtue of  
30 information about the server functionalities of a  
communication component being able to be retrieved  
and used directly by the client functionalities of  
other communication components, with the server  
functionalities providing usable services in the

communication network.

The **subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel**(Article 33(2) PCT).

5 1.3) The **object to be achieved** by this additional feature is for a first communication component in a communication network to request and use **the services provided by other communication components**.

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1.4) This object is achieved by virtue of a client requesting information about the server functionalities of a communication component, in line with claim 1.

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1.5) None of the documents cited in the international search report discloses the requesting of the provided services from a server.

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**D1** discloses a packet-switched network having communication components, in which these communication components interchange files, with the files being sought and transferred on the basis of the Gnutella protocol. In contrast thereto, the server functionalities in the present invention are communication **services**.

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D2-D4 merely disclose the general prior art in relation to packet-switched communication networks, and the use of a service within the context of communication services would also not be obvious through a combination of the cited documents.

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The **subject matter of claim 1 is therefore based on an inventive step** (Article 33(3) PCT).

- 5    2)    The additional features of the dependent claims relate to specific embodiments of the subject matter of claim 1 and are likewise novel and inventive.
- 10   3)    Claim 1 does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because the subject matter of the application for protection is not clearly defined. **The claim attempts to define the subject matter through the result which is to be achieved**
- 15        (functionalities; information directly retrievable and usable); however, it merely indicates the object to be achieved.
- 20    4)    All claims (1-7) are also unclear (Article 6 PCT) with regard to the category, since they contain method features (see also PCT guidelines III-4.1).